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Industrial Development Board

Twenty-fourth session
Vienna, 19-22 June 2001
Item 14 of the provisional agenda

PREPARATIONS FOR THE NINTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

Report by the Director-General

Provides general information on the organization of the work of the General Conference, including a draft provisional agenda of its ninth session.

Introduction

1. The General conference of UNIDO is the principal organ of the Organization, consisting of representatives of all Members (Articles 7.1 and 8.1 of the Constitution). The main functions of the Conference are stipulated in Article 8.3 of the Constitution. In particular, the Conference should determine the guiding principles and the policies of the Organization. Unless it decides otherwise, the Conference is to hold a regular session every two years, at the seat of the Organization (Article 8.2). The last regular session (eighth) of the Conference was held in Vienna from 29 November to 3 December 1999.

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A. Date and place of the Conference

2. At its eighth session, in decision GC.8/Dec.20, the Conference decided that its ninth session should be held in Vienna from 3 to 7 December 2001. In this connection, as for previous sessions, the Austrian Federal Government has placed at the disposal of UNIDO conference facilities at the Austria Center Vienna (ACV) free of charge for meetings that cannot be accommodated by the conference facilities of the Vienna International Centre.

B. Office space for delegations

3. Office space for delegations and their permanent missions required during the ninth session of the Conference can be rented in the ACV. Delegations wishing to rent such offices are invited to contact, as soon as possible, Ms. Alice Baar, Director of Organization Department, ACV (telephone 260 69, ext. 2323).

C. Budgetary matters

4. The resources available for holding the ninth session of the Conference, as provided for in the programme and budgets of UNIDO, 2000-2001, total $ 1,142,000. The budget of the Conference is based on the following assumptions:

(a) The session will last five working days providing for 10 plenary meetings, four main committee meetings and five geographical group meetings;

(b) Interpretation for plenary and main committee meetings and documentation will be provided in six languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish);

(c) Summary records, which will be provided for plenary meetings as well as meetings of the main committee, will be issued—to the extent possible—in English during the session and the other five languages will be issued as soon as possible after the session.

For reasons of economy, this document has been printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies of documents to meetings.

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D. Agenda

5. In accordance with Article 9.4 (g) of the Constitution, the Board prepares the provisional agenda for each session of the General conference. Rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the Conference provides guidelines for the contents of the provisional agenda of a regular session of the Conference. Furthermore, in accordance with rule 12 of those rules of procedure, the Board shall prepare that provisional agenda on the basis of a list of items submitted to it by the Director-General.

6. Annotations indicating briefly the history of each item, the proposed documentation, the substance of the matter to be discussed and earlier relevant decisions by the conference or other organs of the Organization will be issued following the twenty-fourth session of the Board.

7. The draft provisional agenda for the ninth session of the Conference is contained in the annex to the present document, together with an indication of relevant mandates for the items.

E. Documentation

8. In accordance with rule 23 of the rules of procedure of the Conference, documents required for consideration of items on the provisional agenda shall be distributed by the Director-General in all languages of the Conference to all recipients of the provisional agenda, as far as possible at the same time as the provisional agenda (ninety days before the opening date) and in any event not later than forty-five days before the opening date of a regular session.

II. ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

9. During the ninth session, it is planned to hold an industrial development forum that would enable Member States to express their views on a topic to be announced in due course.

10. In addition, it will be recalled that, at its previous sessions, the Conference established a main committee to which it allocated a number of agenda items. The Board may wish to recommend to the Conference a similar procedure for its ninth session, keeping in mind that the possibility of creating additional committees is constrained by the limited resources available (see para. 4 above). Items 7 to 17 of the draft agenda would thus be referred to the main committee for a more focused debate aimed at the preparation of consensus draft decisions and resolutions for submission to the plenary.

3 December

a.m. 1st plenary meeting

Opening of session, consideration of agenda items 1-5

p.m. 2nd plenary meeting

Opening of forum; agenda item 9

4 December

a.m. 3rd plenary meeting

Agenda item 9, forum continued

p.m. 4th plenary meeting

Agenda item 9, closure of forum

5 December

a.m. 5th plenary meeting

General debate

Main Committee

Consideration of draft decisions/resolutions on agenda items 7 to 17

p.m. 6th plenary meeting

General debate

Main Committee

Consideration of draft decisions/resolutions on agenda items 7 to 17

6 December

a.m. 7th plenary meeting

General debate

Main Committee

Consideration of draft decisions/resolutions on agenda items 7 to 17

p.m. Main Committee

Consideration of draft decisions/resolutions on agenda items 7 to 17

7 December

a.m. 8th plenary meeting

Adoption of draft decisions/resolutions emanating from the Main Committee and others

p.m. 9th plenary meeting

Adoption of draft decisions/resolutions emanating from the Main Committee and others; closure of the General Conference

11. The work of the previous sessions was also facilitated by setting up, under the guidance of the President of the Board, informal consultations for the preparation of the Conference. Such an informal group, composed of representatives of permanent missions to UNIDO in Vienna, has met prior to previous Conferences and has prepared a report to the Conference containing recommendations that cover most of the items on the agenda as well as organizational matters.

III. ACTION REQUIRED OF THE BOARD

12. The Board may wish to consider adopting the following decision:

"The Industrial Development Board:

"(a) Takes note of the information provided in document IDB.24/21;

"(b) Adopts the following agenda for the ninth session of the General Conference:

[...]

"(c) Agrees to hold a forum within the framework of the General Conference (provisional agenda item 9);

"(d) Recommends to the Conference that items 7 to 17 of the provisional agenda be allocated to a main committee of the Conference;

"(e) Recommends that, in the light of experience gained in the preparation of previous sessions of the Conference, the President of the twenty-fourth session of the Industrial Development Board conduct informal consultations for the preparation of the ninth session of the Conference."

Annex

DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE GENERAL CONFERENCE, NINTH SESSION

		Mandate
1.	Opening of the session	Rule 34
2.	Election of officers	Rule 35
3.	Adoption of the agenda	Rule 17
4.	Organization of work	Rules 44-47
5.	Credentials of representatives to the Conference	Rule 28
6.	Elections to organs	Rule 102
	(a) Industrial Development Board;	Constitution, Article 9.1
	(b) Programme and Budget Committee	Constitution, Article 10.1
7.	Annual reports of the Director-General on the activities of the Organization for 1999 and 2000	Rule 13.1 (b)
8.	Reports of the Industrial Development Board on the work of its twenty-second, twenty-third and twenty-fourth regular session	Constitution, Article 8.3(b) Rule 13.1 (c)
9.	Industrial development forum	Rule 13.1 (b) (Submitted by Director-General - see para. 9 above)
10.	Financial matters	
	(a) Scale of assessments of Member States;	Constitution, Article 15 Rule 13.1 (k)
	(b) Financial situation of UNIDO;	Rule 13.1 (l)
	(c) Working Capital Fund;	Financial regulation 5.4 PBC conclusion 2001/5
	(d) Financial regulations;	Constitution, Article 8.3 (c) PBC conclusion 2001/6
	(e) Introduction of the euro;	PBC conclusion 2001/7
	(f) Appointment of an external auditor	Financial regulation 11.1
11.	Medium-term programme framework, 2002-2005	GC.2/Dec.23 (b)(vi) GC.6/Dec.10 IDB.23/Dec.5 (b)
12.	Programme and budgets, 2002-2003	Constitution, Articles 8.3 (c) and 14 Rule 13.1 (i)
13.	The regional dimension	GC.6/Res.5, para. 3 GC.6/Res.6, para. 2
14.	International Centre for Science and High Technology	Rule 13.1 (g) (Proposed by Italy*)
15.	Participation by UNIDO in the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties between States and International Organizations or between International Organizations of 21 March 1986	Rule 13.1 (b) (Submitted by Director-General*)
16.	UNIDO Staff Pension Committee	GC.1/Dec.37
17.	Matters related to intergovernmental, non-governmental, governmental and other organizations	GC.1/Dec.41, annex
18.	Appointment of the Director-General	Constitution, Article 11.2 Rule 103
19.	Date and place of the tenth session	Rule 13.1 (s)
20.	Closure of the session	

* Information to be circulated